



Republic of the Philippines

Department of Education

Region VII, Central Visayas

DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE

Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City



June 18, 2019

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 342, s. 2019

#SWAP-UP 2.0 CHALLENGE, A PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM WITH NATURE'S SPRING

**To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
SGOD and CID Chiefs
Education Program Supervisors /Division Coordinators
Public Schools District Supervisors /OICs
Elementary and Secondary Schools Heads**

1. The Nature's Spring Foundation, Inc. in partnership with the Department of Education- Cebu Province will conduct a campaign program and launch its first ever Cebu Province-wide competition on plastic waste upcycling innovation dubbed as #SwapUp 2.0 Challenge.
2. The competition program concept focuses on recognizing, promoting and adopting sustainable practice on proper waste management through a search for child-led, innovative solutions wherein public schools and stakeholders participate jointly by collecting used PET bottles, creating/showcasing an innovation for upcycling/reuse the PET bottles not only to address the issue of plastic waste pollution but also to pursue school-community livelihood opportunities.
3. This pilot project will have its initial and first implementation in the public schools including schools in Cebu Province Division.
4. For further information and inquiries, attached is the program guidelines and mechanics. You may contact Ms. Gabrielle T. Espinosa, NSFI Program Officer, through tel. no. 355-8888 local 8794 or at mobile no. 0966-460-6464.
5. Wide and immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


RHEA MAR A. ANGTUD, Ed. D., CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent 

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NATURE'S SPRING
FOUNDATION, INC.

June 13, 2019

DR. RHEA MAR A. ANGTUD

Schools Division Superintendent

Cebu Province Division

Department of Education – Region 7

ATTN:

DR. NOVIE O. MANGUBAT

School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD) Chief

Dear **DR. MANGUBAT**,

Greetings! I hope this letter finds you well.

This pertains to the partnership of Nature's Spring Foundation Inc. with the Department of Education on the *Bote* Challenge, previously known as SwapUp 2.0, a plastic upcycling project which seeks to utilize the creative energies of the youth in recognizing, promoting and adopting sustainable practices on plastic waste management within communities. The project is currently on its transition from the search launch and media campaign (Phase 1) to the mentoring and equipping workshop (Phase 2).

In line with this, we humbly request for your office's assistance in the information dissemination of the *Bote* Challenge Competition to all the secondary schools (including integrated schools) under the Cebu Province Division through a memorandum, as a strategy to ensure that the competition is formally and clearly communicated to the secondary schools unit. We appreciate if we could establish this partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement to further strengthen the ties of DepEd Cebu province and NSFI in the fields of education and environment.

For more details, we are attaching herewith the competition mechanics and guidelines, as well as the official invitation letter to the schools. These documents can be attached to the memorandum order that will be issued by your office.

We look forward to your positive response to this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,


MARIFE S. PIÑERO

Program Manager

Nature's Spring Foundation, Inc.



The Bote Challenge

SOLUTION SEARCH COMPETITION

The ***Bote Challenge*** seeks to recognize, promote, and adopt sustainable practices on proper plastic waste management through an annual search for youth-led, innovative solutions within communities that actively involves the youth, women, community-based organizations, local governments, and other mission-aligned partners

The Philippines has been identified as the major contributor of plastic pollution in the world, ranking third among the 173 countries and producing 1.9 metric tons of mismanaged plastic waste annually, according to the 2017 report released by the Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment. However, weak implementation and enforcement of waste management potentially affects lives of Filipinos, such as access to clean and safe water, loss of livelihood, and increased exposure to health infections and disaster risk.

Nature Spring Foundation, Inc. (NSFI) – the corporate social responsibility arm of the Philippine Spring Water Resources, Inc. (PSWRI), the makers of the Nature Spring bottled water - in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd), local governments, the private sector, and other key stakeholders in Cebu, will lead a nation-wide campaign to launch a solutions search competition with plastic waste reduction as its central theme. Starting its first year with Cebu province as a pilot, the competition is a strategy geared towards finding new or existing workable sustainable solutions that exist within our communities and has the potential for adoption and replication in other communities. Such solutions will be recognized as bright spots and help build a movement of initiatives that would counter the projected effects of improper waste disposal on water, health, livelihoods, climate change and disaster risks.

OBJECTIVE

To recognize, promote, and adopt sustainable practices on proper plastic waste management through an annual search for a child-led, innovative solutions within communities that actively involves children and youth, women, community-based organizations, local governments, and other mission-aligned partners.



CONTEST MECHANICS AND GUIDELINES

The competition is open to all public secondary schools in the province of Cebu, excluding the schools situated in the Metro Cebu Area—Cebu City, Mandaue City, Lapu-lapu City, and Talisay City.¹

1. In the competition, participating secondary schools will work with their students, the Parent Teachers and Community Association (PTCA), and other community-based groups to collect **used** PET bottles and showcase an existing or create a new innovative solution for **upcycling**² the PET bottles not only to address the issue of plastic waste pollution but also reusing these PET bottles as a means to address other challenges or pursue opportunities in their community and add value in their day to day lives such as, but not limited to secure livelihoods, community infrastructure, health, disaster risk reduction, and other development projects.
2. Participating secondary schools should partner with an active and registered community-based organization, cooperative or association within their respective communities. Additional points will be given to upcycling solutions that involve partnerships with local businesses, the private sector, other NGOs, and their local government unit.
3. Solution search participants must document the process and output of their innovation through an accomplished entry form provided by Nature Spring Foundation, Inc.
4. The project solution must involve the participation of children of the school, the local youth, and women of the community. A project committee structure must actively involve these groups in decision-making.
5. Participants will be given a maximum of three months to identify existing solutions and enhance them based on the project solution search criteria or to conceptualize, successfully test a working proto-type model and document their innovation. Submission of entries is due on August 31, 2019.
6. The competition is limited to one innovation per participating entry.

¹ These areas are excluded to prevent the disruption of livelihood of peddlers and scavengers involved in the collection and recycling of plastic bottles.

² **Upcycling**, also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless, or unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality or for better environmental value. **Upcycling** is the opposite of downcycling, which is the other face of the recycling process.



CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

1. Public Secondary School must have an active partnership with a community-based organization, cooperative or association.
2. Active participation of children of the school, the local youth, and women of the community. A project committee structure must actively involve these groups in decision-making.

GUIDELINES: PROCESS OF THE COMPETITION

1. Nature's Spring Foundation Inc. (NSFI) shall send an invitation letter, with an attached confirmation slip, to all public secondary schools through the Division Offices of the Department of Education. Information dissemination should be at least three months prior to the deadline for submission of entries.
2. Secondary schools shall officially notify NSFI in writing of its interest to join the competition through signing and sending the confirmation slip to the mailing or email addresses provided. A team of secondary school and the community-based organization will be called a **school-unity** entry to suggest inclusiveness of participants per entry. The Official Launch of the competition is set on the Birgada Caravan of DepEd.
3. After the official launch of the competition, NSFI will invite the school-unity entries in the mentoring and equipping workshops to assist schools in developing and/or enhancing their project ideas, innovations or existing upcycling projects. The workshop series will be conducted per division to accommodate schools situated in far-flung and remote areas. Interested school-unity entries shall then undergo mentoring sessions with the pool of mentors in the workshop.
4. All participating school-unity entries both mentored or not, shall be given three (3) months to identify existing solutions and enhance them based on the project solution search criteria OR to conceptualize, successfully test a working proto-type or model and document their innovation. The deadline of submission is due on August 31, 2019.
5. Participants must submit the accomplished entry form provided by Nature's Spring Foundation. Participants must also submit photos and/or videos about the process and the innovation itself. Requirements can be submitted online or through physical copies. Participants can send their entries to thebotchallenge@naturespringfoundation.org or through mailing the physical copy to the address:
 - Nature's Spring Foundation
Serviced Offices, 5th floor, Bai Hotel, CSSEAZ, Mandaue City



6. NSFI shall check the requirements submitted by all the school-unity entries. Failure to complete requirements is an automatic disqualification of a school-unity entry. Likewise, participating school-unity entries which were not able to meet the criteria of selection shall be automatically disqualified. Other possible grounds that may cause disqualification are:

- Plagiarized idea of innovation
- Entries who violate the Child Labor Laws

7. NSFI organizers shall then forward all qualified school-unity entries to the NSFI Screening Committee for the first phase of judging. In this phase, the NSFI Screening Committee will select screen the top twenty (20) finalists of the competition. The criteria for the top 20 selection are as follows:

- Impact: 30%
- Sustainability of innovation: 30%
- Profitability/Market potential of the innovation: 30%
- Developmental*: 10%
(Addresses additional challenges or provide additional opportunities in the field of gender and development, education, health, disaster risk reduction, climate change, etc.)

After the first phase of the screening, NSFI will inform all the school-unity entries if they made it to the top 20 or not.

8. The second phase of the screening will focus on the selection of the Top Ten (10) finalists. In this phase, the NSFI Screening Committee will forward the entries to the Identified Panel of Judges. NSFI will open the Public Voting for the top 10 winners through the website. The finalists will be informed of the modified judging criteria for the 1st-10th prizes. The percentage of votes shall be taken from the following:

- Panel of Judges ----- 70%
- Public Votes ----- 30%

9. Once the public voting closes, NSFI shall immediately calculate the percentage scores from the public votes and the panel of judges. Winners will be announced during the Awarding Ceremony set on October or November 2019. The Top Twenty (20) finalists will be showcased during the ceremony. For transparency, results will be presented during the Awarding Ceremony.

10. Winners will then accept their corresponding cash prizes which will be converted into a project of their choice. The prizes are as follows:

- Grand prize – 750,000.00
- Second prize – 400,000.00
- Third prize – 200,000.00
- 4th to 10th prizes –80,000.00 each

The prize money shall be given in support of the cycling project such as, but not limited to:

- Raw materials inventory
- Business infrastructure



- Supplies and equipment
- Training and technical assistance
- Operating capital
- Business development services

11. NSFI shall assist the winning school-unity entries during the whole process of receiving the prize—from the planning to the implementation of their respective projects. Since every entry is a partnership effort with the school and the community-based organization, NSFI must ensure that the project proposed by the winners is a joint venture that would equally benefit both parties.

3 **School-unity** – every school-unity entry must consist of the secondary student leaders, teachers and parents from the PTCA Association and officers from the community-based organization, cooperative or association within their respective communities. The community-based organization must be based in the barangay where the secondary school is situated or in any adjacent barangays.

GUIDELINES: PRIZES FOR THE BOTE WINNERS

1. The top 10 winners of the *Bote* Challenge will receive and split their grant awards between the community based organization's upcycling project and the host secondary school:
 - CBO Upcycling Project – 50% of total prize money, which will be used to further support and implement the upcycling solution;
 - Host Secondary school – 50% of the total prize money; which will be used to support a school improvement project jointly implemented by the PTCA.
2. Under the Republic Act 8525 or the Adopt-a-School Program Act of 1998, the examples of eligible school improvement projects that the secondary school and the PTCA can propose are:
 - School Infrastructure, such as waste segregation, disposal, and composting facilities
 - Technology and Multi-media Support
 - Furniture and Appliances
 - Student Wellness, Health and Nutrition
 - Teaching Learning Aids and Devices
 - Teacher Training and Skills Development
3. Winners of the solution search shall officially become grant recipients of NSFI and shall be covered by terms and conditions as provided by a Grant Agreement to be signed by all parties.



PROJECT PHASES

- KICK-OFF - The *Bote* Challenge is launched. Nature's Spring Foundation echoes the campaign to schools, stakeholders and in media platforms. (May-June)
- SUBMIT - The school-unities send their entries for the *Bote* Challenge. Mentors will guide the school-unities in developing and/or enhancing their innovation. (June-August)
- SELECT & VOTE - Entries undergo the screening and selection phase together with the identified expert judges. Nature's Spring Foundation narrows down the selection to 20 finalists which will be open to the public for reading, analyzing and voting. (September-October)
- PROMOTE - The *Bote* Challenge announces the winners. Ten School-unity winners will be featured in platforms where the public can recognize and learn from the sustainable practices in every winner. (October)
- ADOPT - Nature's Spring Foundation will sustain the innovation of the winners through further assistance programs and possible replication of the innovation to other communities. (November-December)

PARTNERS



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – REGION 7



PHILIPPINE SPRING
WATER RESOURCES, INC.

PHILIPPINE SPRING WATER RESOURCES, INC.
(The makers of Nature's Spring bottled water)